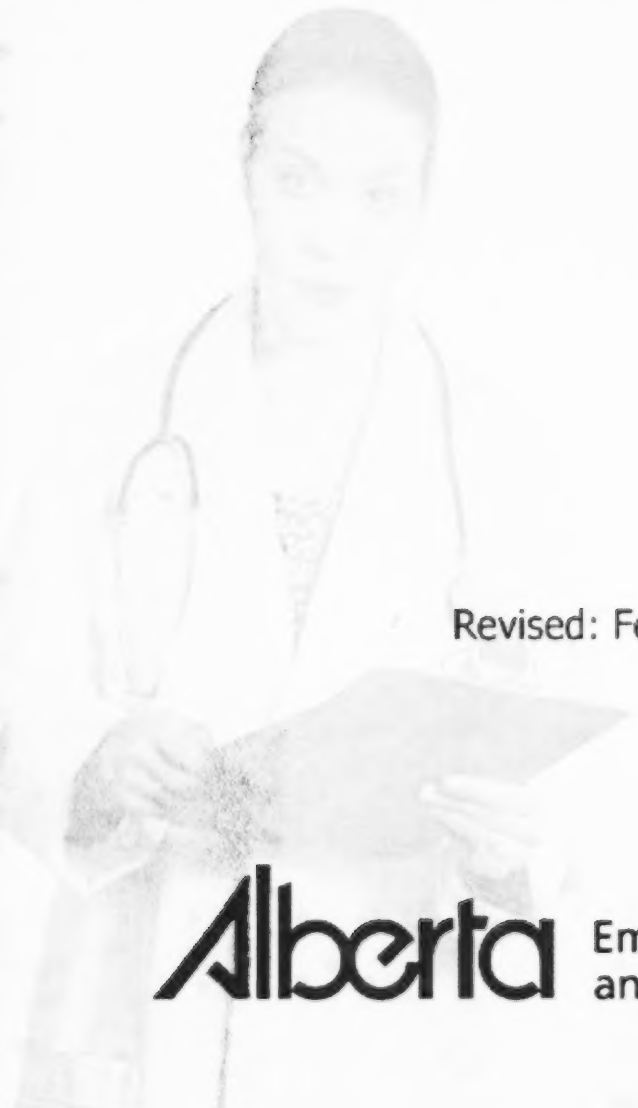
Industry Profiles

Health Care and Social Assistance Industry



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Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry

Overview:

The Health Care and Social Assistance industry[1] in Alberta includes establishments and services such as:

- hospitals, nursing and residential care facilities and out-patient care centres;
- offices of health practitioners (i.e. dentists, doctors, optometrists and chiropractors);
- medical and diagnostic laboratories;
- home health care services;
- ambulance services;
- social assistance services (i.e. for children, youth, the elderly, families);
- community food, housing, emergency and relief services;
- vocational rehabilitation services; and
- day care services.

Section A: Business Environment
1. Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates
2. Industry Growth
3. Company Size
Section B: Human Resources Profile
1. Occupational Information
2. Demographics: Age and Gender
3. Wages
Section C: Additional Information
1. Links to Industry Associations
2. Links to Government Library Database

[1] North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) major group 62

Section A: Business Environment

1. 2006 Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates:

	Alberta	Health Care and Social Assistance Industry
Number of employed	1,870,700	179,500
Percent employed in the industry		9.6%
Number of unemployed	66,800	2,200
Unemployment rate	3.4%	1.2%

For more information on employment numbers or for a historical comparison, go to the Labour Force Survey or Statistics Canada websites.

2. Industry Growth:

- The Health Care and Social Assistance industry is expected to grow on average 2.7% annually from 2006 to 2011.
- Approximately 25,354 jobs will be created in the forecast period. Employment is expected to increase to 204,895 by 2011.
- This industry is expected to provide 10.8% of all new jobs in Alberta between 2006 and 2011.

For more information, see the Alberta Modified Canadian Occupational Projection System Outlook (2006-2011) online and the Alberta Learning Information Service (ALIS) website's industry descriptions.

Outlook

The *Alberta Occupational Demand and Supply Outlook (2006-2016),* forecasts supply shortages in the Therapy and assessment professionals, Physicians, dentists and veterinarians, and Optometrists, chiropractors and other health professional occupations between 2006 and 2016.

The Alberta Medical Association (AMA) ratified a trilateral financial agreement between Alberta Health and Wellness and Alberta Regional Health Authorities, dedicated to recruitment and retention of physicians focusing on key issues such as: under-serviced areas and special funding for increasing costs.

While many family doctors are on the verge of retirement, many medical students are resistant to entering family physician occupations, creating a drastic future shortage in family doctors in Alberta. Similar trends could be seen with registered nurses (RN), as according to Health Canada, the country is experiencing a significant shift in the age of its RN workforce as the number of RNs under the age of 45 continues to decline while the number age 45 and older continues to increase.

3. Company Size

Establishment Size	Alberta Businesses		Health Care and Social Assistance	
	Number of Employees	%	Number of Employees	%
Less than 20 employees	525,000	34.1%	47,500	31.3%
20 to 99 employees	543,600	35.3%	40,900	26.9%
100 to 500 employees	292,400	19.0%	29,700	19.6%
Over 500 employees	178,900	11.6%	33,700	22.2%

Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2006, Statistics Canada

Section B: Human Resources Profile

1. Occupational Information:

Some examples of occupations in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry include:

- chiropractor;
- dental hygienist;
- emergency medical technician;
- registered nurse; and
- child and youth care worker.

For a complete listing of all occupations related to this industry as well as detailed information on education and skill requirements, visit the Alberta Occupational Profiles website.

2. Demographics: Age and Gender

According to the Labour Force Survey, the gender break-down in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry is as follows:

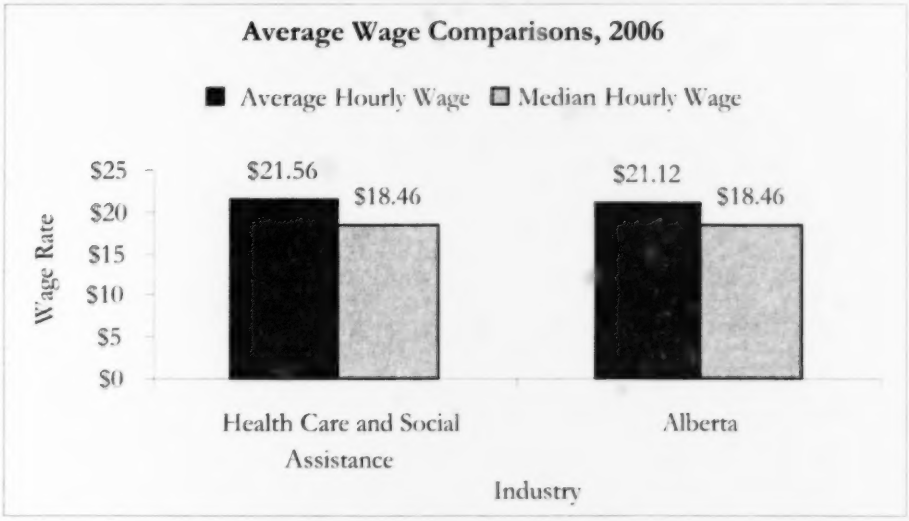
- women employed: 150,500 people, or 83.8%
- men employed: 29,000 people, or 16.2%

In comparison, women accounted for 45.3% and men made up 55.7% of the total employed in Alberta.

Age Characteristics	Alberta Employees		Health Care and Social Assistance Industry	
	Number	%	Number	%
15-24 years	329,600	17.6%	18,700	10.4%
25-54 years	1,286,500	68.8%	131,500	73.3%
55 years and over	254,600	13.6%	29,300	16.3%

Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2006, Statistics Canada

3. Wages:



Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2006, Statistics Canada

Wage and Salary Information for Selected Occupations

Occupation	Average Hourly Wage			Average Annual Salary
	Starting	After 3 years	Top	
Dentists	$ 54.15	N/A	N/A	$ 112,415
Registered nurses	$ 24.87	$ 27.38	$ 30.38	$ 51,674
Medical secretaries	$ 12.24	$ 14.65	$ 17.11	$ 25,434

Data Source: 2005 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey
Note: N/A is reported in instances of insufficient response.

For more information on wages, refer to the WAGEinfo webpage. For descriptions, duties, required skills and education for specific occupations in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry, visit the ALIS website.

Section C: Additional Information

1. Links to Selected Industry Associations:

- Alberta Health and Wellness
- Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission
- Alberta Association of Optometrists
- Alberta Association of Registered Nurses
- Alberta Long Term Care Association
- Alberta Medical Association
- Alberta Dentist Association and College
- United Nurses of Alberta

2. Link to Government Library Database:

http://www.servicelink.gov.ab.ca/libraries/workplace/